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**Mike Reed
Director of Athletics**

**Dual Sport Participation Policy Recommendations
Fall 2020**

The Caledonia-Mumford school district has approved dual participation for student-athletes in grades 9-12 with the rationale that “some athletes have talents and abilities in which they desire to contribute to more than one team in a particular athletic season and both of these teams can benefit.” It should be noted however that Caledonia-Mumford highly discourages the practice of dual sport participation due to the unrealistic time demands that are placed on our student-athletes. We understand however that there are individual circumstances where the administration, coaches, parents, and student-athlete may agree that would allow for an athlete to participate in two sports in the same season.

Coaches must consider the role the dual sport athlete would play on the team they coach and the impact on team chemistry. If a coach declines to have an athlete be a member of the team as a dual participant, which ends the application. There is no appeal to district administration to overrule that decision.

If a student-athlete wishes to participate in two sports during one sport season, they must do the following:

1. The decision to participate as a dual sport athlete must be made before the start of each sport season, and the student-athlete must identify a primary and secondary sport at that time.

A primary sport is the sport defined as taking precedence over another sport in the event that there is a conflict of schedule or other matter that could lead to conflict. The student-athlete **must** adhere to the primary sport in the event of any conflicts of the schedule. **If one sport has a contest and the other sport has practice, the contest always takes precedence. Otherwise the primary sport will always take precedence over the secondary.**

2. Athletes must complete the “Dual Participation Application” and submit it 1 week prior to the start of the season.

3. The coaches of both teams involved must give their approval before participation begins:

a) A mandatory meeting needs to be held with a school administrator, individual coaches, the student-athlete, and parent(s).

b) They will review the game and practice schedules for the season of the two teams including any postseason or sectional contests to determine if dual participation is practical. In addition the school administrator and coaches will develop a tentative practice/contest schedule for the student-athlete to follow.

c) The dual sport athlete must practice regularly for the secondary sport. If practice is not occurring regularly, the student athlete will be dropped from the secondary sport.

d) Approval of participation is contingent on all parties agreeing to the team rules outlined in each sport.

e) Individual game or practice schedules will not be manipulated to accommodate dual sport participants. It is our goal to have continuous communication between the student/athlete, coaching staff, and the various athletic departments. Dual sporting may not be the best situation for all students. For this reason, the meeting between all parties is vitally important.

f) The athlete and his/her parent agree that splitting time between two sports and might result in less participation in both sports.

4. Dual sport participants must meet all standards of eligibility to participate in practice and must follow the guidelines set forth in the NYSPHSAA Handbook. They have to attain the required practices for both sports. A practice for one does not count as a practice for the other, they are sport specific.

5. Dual sport athletes will be required to maintain a minimum 85% overall average prior to and throughout the season to be eligible for participation in two sports during one season. This will be checked bi-weekly with the ATHLETE responsible for turning in the grade reporting sheet (Appendix A) to the Director of Athletics on designated Friday dates by 2 pm. If a student athlete does not meet the

minimum requirement they may participate only in the primary sport for the remainder of the season.

6. Athletes may compete the same day in both sports. Athletes may NOT leave the primary sport contest until that game is completed. Athletes cannot attempt to play in two games simultaneously.

7. Transportation must be provided by only the parent/guardian of the student-athlete when he/she cannot be released from the primary sport in time to ride on the team bus. No students may drive themselves to a contest or practice. The return to school follows school/team protocols.

8. An athlete who is suspended or removed from a team due to disciplinary reasons will also be removed from any other team they are participating on. The circumstances will be reviewed by the school administration and both coaches to determine if the student-athlete will be allowed to resume participation at all or in only one or both sports.

9. An athlete who violates training rules will have suspensions/penalties affect both sports. For example, if the violation results in a two-game suspension, then the athlete will sit two games for both teams, not one game for each.

10. A dual sport athlete who quits one/both teams will not have the option to participate in any dual sports for the remainder of that school year. In addition the likelihood approval for future year requests for dual sport participation will be significantly reduced.

11. The coaches and school administrators will meet at approximately the mid-point of the season. At this meeting it will be determined if the agreement should be continued for the remainder of the season or should the athlete focus on the primary sport only.

12. The application is good for only one sport season (fall, winter, spring) during only one school year. A new application must be completed for any subsequent season or school year.